REMARKS

Claims 3-6 and 10-13, as amended, are presently pending this application. Claim 3-6 and 10-13 have been amended to further clarify certain features of those claims. The amendments are supported by the specification and no new matter has been added as a result of the amendment.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephonic interview of July 6, 2006 in which the undersigned, Michael Ellis, and Examiner Kwasi participated. During the Examiner Interview, the pending rejection primarily with respect to claim 3 and the cited references, Willard and Singer, were discussed. During the Examiner Interview, Applicants traversed the rejections by at least pointing out that Willard and Singer do not describe or suggest the below-mentioned features of claim 3. To further the prosecution of the present application, however, and based on the Examiner's request, Applicant agreed to amend the claims to further clarify certain features. Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 3 and 10 as generally discussed with Examiner.

In the Office Action, claims 3-6 and 10-13 were rejected as being unpatentable over Singer U.S. Patent No. 5,485,163 and Willard U.S. Patent No. 4,803,487. However, all of the features of claim 3-6 and 10-13 are not described or suggested by Singer or Willard, either individually or in combination.

For example, claim 3 recites:

"A jewelry individual network component comprising:

a wireless transceiver configured to send data to and receive data from other individual network components in a modular personal network,

circuitry . . . ;

a mount . . . , and

an integrated item of jewelry . . . ,

whereby the jewelry individual network component is configured to operate as an individual network component in the modular personal network so as to send data to or receive data .from one or more other individual network components of the modular personal network that are also carried by the user."

As such, claim 3 is directed towards a jewelry individual network component that is configured to operate as a particular type of individual network component in a modular personal network. Willard and Singer do not describe or suggest such features. Willard, the primary reference, is directed to a personal locator unit that is activated to transmit a signal to a base station for locating a user. Willard does not describe or suggest that the personal locator unit is operable in a modular personal network such that it can send data to and receive data from other individual networks components carried by the user in a modular personal network. To emphasize, no where does Willard describe or suggest that the personal locator unit can or does transmit data to another device that is carried by the user. The same deficiency exists in Singer. Singer describes a system in which a pager receives a page and a separate presentation unit displays the received page. Neither of these devices is described or suggested in Singer, however, to be configured to be operable in a modular personal network such the device is configured to send data to and receive data from other network components carried by the user. Accordingly, all the features of claim 3 are not described or suggested by Willard or Singer, individually, or in combination.

Moreover, Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to the following relevant text from the specification of the present application, which is instructive of the meaning of the terms "modular personal network" and "individual network component":

> "In accordance with the principles of the present invention, modular personal networks and methods are provided.
>
> MPN concepts may be illustratively explained based on the parts of its name:
>
> Modular: Each device provides one or more functions to the network. A new device can be added at any time, increasing the capabilities of the system, for example, without losing anything that already is supported. A single device (e.g., any single device) can be removed, for example, at any time, resulting in a system that can perform without that device (e.g., one less function), but which still works well as a system.
>
> Individual devices can be swapped out, for example, at any time. For example, a user may decide that a green display goes better with today's outfit than yesterday's blue display. The new display can be substituted without impacting any of the other devices, and without reducing any of the functions of the system.
>
> The network protocols may, for example, be "open", which means

that new devices with new capabilities can be designed at any time and brought into the network. This approach allows the network to perform functions that were not imagined at the time it was originally created.

Personal: The devices are small and designed to be carried or worn by a user. As such, they may be worn at the waist, around the wrist, mounted to an item of clothing, carried in a pocket or purse, or mounted to a piece of the user's personal equipment, etc. The network is preferably unobtrusive and may not even be noticed by other individuals. The entire network is preferably about the same size as the user's "personal space". Each device may, if desired, be further personalized, so that it only functions in its user's network.

The MPN can also be considered personal because it can provide exactly the design and functions that the user wants at any particular time. An advantage of this technique is that users no longer have to live with the limited set of functions that some manufacturer decides is the best combination. If the user needs something new, he can preferably just get the new component and add it to the network. If the user no longer wants a particular feature, components can preferably be removed one at a time. If the user wants to mix and match, the combinations can be unlimited. If desired, in some instances, one or more components that are not "personal" may be added to an MPN.

Network: The devices in the MPN preferably communicate using a **low-power, short-range wireless network, for example at a 2.4 GHz radio frequency**. Each device preferably has a range of a few meters for messages to and from other devices in the network. Any device can preferably talk to any other device in the MPN, using, for example, a standard protocol." Paragraphs 9 to 16 of the published version of the application US 2004/0215958 (emphasis added).

As such, it is also clear, when reviewing the claims in view of the specification, that the above-mentioned features of claim 3 are distinguishable over Willard or Singer.

Moreover, an advantage of the jewelry individual network component of claim 3 over Willard and Singer is that the component can send and receive data such that it can be easily be added or removed from a modular personal network to communicate with one or more pre-existing components of the network. This versatility gives the device advantages that were not contemplated or considered by Willard or Singer.

Therefore, based on the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 3 is respectfully requested. Independent claim 10 is also allowable at least on the basis of some of the reasons provided above for claim 3. Dependent claims 4-6 and 11-13, which depend from claims 3, and 10, respectively, are also allowable at least on the basis of being dependent from independent claims 3 and 10.

In view of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated. Should the Examiner not agree or have any questions, then a personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues in an effort to expedite the allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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